

## What to Expect

1. Expect the unexpected and be flexible :)
2. Please be aware that the classroom conditions & materials will vary. We have an ever-changing group of both volunteers and students and teach in an open setting. We are allowed to use the municipio buildings in both towns but at times there may be a meeting or another function which means we have to move outside. Talk to the other teachers and decide who needs what materials i.e. white board, table, chairs etc. Maintaining learning continuity is always a challenge, so we try to stay creative and flexible!
3. You will get to know the level of your students and some groups will not be able to complete the whole course in 8 weeks. If your students don't understand a topic, it is better to spend some more time on it than moving forward without them grasping the concept. It's no problem if you don't finish the course however, you have to leave notes (your online summary) for the following teacher concerning how far your class has progressed.
4. This is not a school environment, the students have already been at school all day and we want them to enjoy the classes so they return. Discipline should not be a priority. Expect the students to have lots of energy. Try and channel this energy into educational games and activities.
5. Obviously, the more Spanish you speak the easier it will be to communicate with students. Try and keep the Spanish to a minimum and only use it if you really need to explain something. If your level of Spanish isn't great that's not a problem, after all these are English classes. Don't worry if students don't understand the first time. Try to keep activities and explanations simple, if this doesn't work then show the students what you want them to do. Remember that English is a *third* language for most of our students, after Zapotec and Spanish! Repetition is key.
6. Sometimes teachers put a lot of effort into planning lessons and trying to accommodate the students as much as possible. Do not be disappointed if something doesn't work or they are unresponsive. After all, they are children.
7. Recently, the program has grown considerably and we have tried to accommodate as many students as possible and to place them in the correct class for their ability. However, there will always be different levels within the group. Be prepared for this. You can organise extra activities for students with higher ability while helping the lower level students.
8. Don't expect students to be on time every lesson, some will be but others will not. We do not punish students for being late as many come from other towns to take the classes. It's ok if you don't start your lesson exactly on time. Use this time to get to know the other students.